

EDUCATIONUSA 2016

Application Form



The EducationUSA office at the Public Affairs Section of the United States Embassy Nairobi, seeks to identify 60 Kenyan students who sat the 2015 KCSE to join the EducationUSA College Club Preparation Program. We will recruit 20 students in Nakuru and 40 in Nairobi. The students should have high academic qualifications and they should be from low-income families.

Our mission is to assist highly-talented, determined and economically-disadvantaged students to negotiate the admissions process for colleges and universities in the United States with the aim of producing highly-skilled and widely-educated leaders to build tomorrow's Kenya.

There are many determined, talented, and economically-disadvantaged students in Kenya who lack financial resources and access to information to better their educational futures.

EducationUSA works with students through regularly scheduled training sessions to assist them throughout the application process to secure admission and financial aid from universities in the United States. We provide free membership to the EducationUSA Advising Center for the participants. We expect a sincere commitment from the students to give back their energy and time to the program and to their communities.

We do not limit the program geographically; however, students must be able to reach our offices in Nakuru or Nairobi on a monthly basis for full participation. Students will work with EducationUSA advisers in 2016/2017 to try and secure admission and financial aid. Admitted students will begin their studies in the US in August 2017.

To apply to the EducationUSA Program, you must have taken the KCSE in 2015. **2014 KCSE candidates are ineligible.** For consideration, you must have a VERY strong academic record, be actively involved in co-curricular and leadership activities and have a strong record of giving back to your community. You must also demonstrate financial need. Please complete this application form and submit it together with the required documents listed at the end of the application form by Email, post or in person, to reach our offices no later than Friday, **April 8, 2016.**

EducationUSA American Corner, Kenya National Library Services, Nakuru NairobiEdUSA@state.gov	EducationUSA United States Embassy, P.O. Box 606 - 00621, Nairobi NairobiEdUSA@state.gov
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Photocopies of this form are acceptable. Complete this application form fully, providing us with as much information as you can about yourself. We do not consider incomplete applications. **Due of the high volume of applications expected, we will ONLY respond to those who are successfully selected to participate in the program.**

ENTRANCE INTO THIS PROGRAM DOES NOT GUARANTEE ADMISSION OR FINANCIAL AID TO STUDY IN THE U.S.

EducationUSA Program 2016 Application Deadline: Friday, April 8, 2016

Read the instructions carefully. It is essential that you attach the documents listed below to your application. Please do not send original certificates or reports. You can use additional paper where you do not have sufficient space to answer the questions on this form.

- 1) A photocopy of your KCSE results slip stamped by your secondary school.
- 2) The attached letter of recommendation form attesting to your character, talent and skills completed by a teacher, school administrator or school guidance counselor who knows you well, either typed or handwritten. Please do not include a basic testimonial that does not talk about you as an individual.
- 3) A copy of all school report forms from **2012 (Form 1) to 2015 (Form 4)** School report forms or transcript.
- 4) Write any two essays from the topics below, each of about 350 – 600 words:

Universities in the U.S want to get to know you as a person, both in and out of the classroom. Use these essays as an opportunity to let us get to know you, how you think and what's important to you. If you study in the US, you will be exposed to and you will take a wide variety of subjects from the humanities, social sciences, and pure sciences. With this liberal arts educational philosophy in mind, please demonstrate your intellectual strengths. We want to get to know you as an individual. Do not look for the most dramatic tale. All experiences told through these essays must be a true and accurate depiction of your life. Write them yourself without the aid of teachers or peers.

1. If dreams can come true, so can nightmares. Steve Jobs' dream of introducing modern software technology that would forever change the world came when he launched Apple Inc. His nightmare came when he was fired from his own company and had to spend 12 years in the wilderness. However, he refused to give up and ended up leading a very successful corporation which included Pixar Animation Studios, one of the best animation companies up to date. What motivates you to keep on going even in situations when the future appears bleak and in what ways are you going to change the world?
2. Sculptor Jacques Lipchitz once said "Cubism is like standing at a certain point on a mountain and looking around. If you go higher, things will look different; if you go lower, again they will look different. It is a point of view." With this quote in mind, describe a moment when your perspective changed.
3. Is it out of your reach? Or have you just not stretched yourself far enough to attain it? What is IT?
4. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? What was the result? Would you make the same decision again?
5. If someone invented a time-travel machine that allowed you to go back in time in your own life, and change something that either you or someone else did that has had a direct impact on your life, what would you change, and why? Reflect briefly in your conclusion on whether you think such a machine would be an asset or a detriment to society.
6. If you could be granted one super power, what would it be and how would you use it?

Personal Information

1. First name _____ Middle Name _____

Surname _____ Preferred Name _____

2. Gender Male _____ Female _____

3. Home Address _____

4. Contact telephone _____

5. Email address _____

6. Date of Birth (Month, day, year): ____/____/____ 7. Facebook Account Yes ____ No ____

8. Mother's current occupation and workplace (Be specific, even if self-employed)

9. Father's current occupation and workplace (Be specific, even if self-employed)

10. If your parents are deceased, state: the name, relationship and occupation of your legal guardian

11. Give us the information below in relation to your direct siblings.

	Name	Age	In School		Name of School	Class/Form
			Yes	No		
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

12. Number of dependents currently living with and supported by your family and their relationship to you

13. Amount of your Form 4 school fees in 2015

14. Who paid your school fees? Were you on any bursary/scholarship? If so, how much does the bursary cover?

15. If your fees were paid by a relative other than your parents, how many other children's fees are paid for by this same person? Do you live with this relative? _____

16. Have you or your siblings ever missed more than a week of school because of finances? Please explain.

17. If you live far from Nairobi or Nakuru, do you have someone you can stay with when you are attending EducationUSA meetings, SAT exams and courses? Please state:

Person's name _____

Relationship _____

Email_____

Cell number _____

18. What else should we know about your personal background, your family and your financial situation? You can use additional paper if this space is too small so we can fully understand your situation.

School Information

19. Secondary School Name _____

Mailing Address _____

20. School telephone number(s) _____

21. Principal

Name _____

Cell number _____

Email _____

22. Career Counselor

Name _____

Cell number _____

Email address _____

23. List below all high schools that you have attended.

School Name	Location	Forms	/ Year	Reason for leaving

24. (a) List in order of importance all extra-curricular activities e.g. Clubs, sports, your community, church). If you want to give us a sample of your talents, feel free to attach (i.e. photo, poem, drawing, etc.). We regret that we cannot return materials sent to us.

Activity	Time spent	Leadership		Position
		Yes	No	

24. (b) Please describe which of these activities is most important to you and why?

25. What, if any, is the most important academic honor/prize you have been awarded? (Attach an extra sheet if needed)

Type of Award	Subject	Term	Form
(E.g) 1 st position/Most improved	Physics	3	Form 1

26. Did you hold any leadership positions at school? Tick the most important leadership position to you.

Leadership Position e.g Head girl	Year

Short Answer Questions

You can use additional paper if the space is insufficient. Take time to answer these questions honestly and fully.

27. (a) What do you hope to study at university?

(b) What is your planned career(s) and why

(c) How did you develop your interest in these chosen field(s) of study and career path(s)

28. Apart from your planned career and study path, what are your other academic passions? What skills do you hope to master or what do you simply have a burning desire to know more about?

29. What do you really care about and why? _____

30. How do you define leadership? Briefly describe your style of leadership, activism or service.

31. In the list below, briefly state your favorite; book, memory, word, scent, Hero/heroine and state why

(Example Book: The River and the Source is my favorite because)

a. Book _____

b. Memory _____

c. Word _____

d. Scent _____

e. Hero/heroine _____

f. Color _____

g. Song _____

32. What don't you like and why?

33. What event has recently happened outside Kenya that interests you and why?

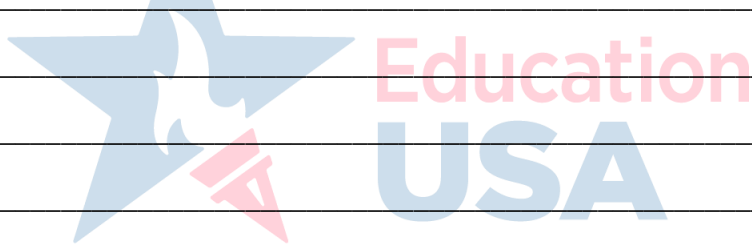
33. EducationUSA Program is more of a family than merely access to colleges that could offer you a scholarship. What do you bring to contribute to this diverse and talented family of dreamers?

34. What difference do you think you will make to your community that will impact Kenya and the world at large?

35. Reflecting on your high school years, what would you do differently if given a second chance to relive them?

36. What is one concrete thing you have done to make your community a better place?

37. What motivates you to wake up every morning?

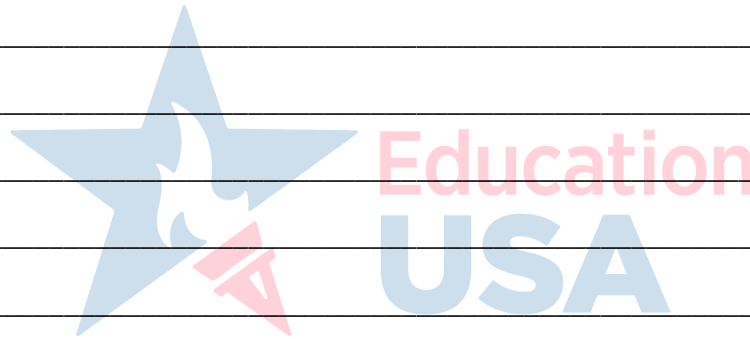


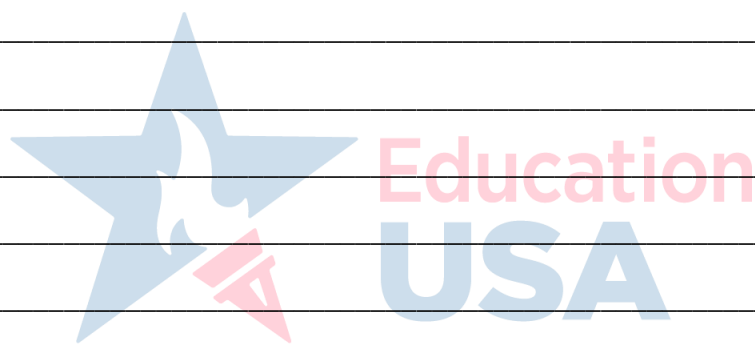
38. The change we need lies within our reach. What makes you unique and why?

Long Essay

This essay should demonstrate your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice. What do you want the readers of your application to know about you apart from courses, grades, and test scores? Choose the option that best helps you answer that question and write an essay of no more than 650 words, using the prompt to inspire and structure your response. Remember: 650 words is your limit, not your goal. Use the full range if you need it, but don't feel obligated to do so.

1. The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
2. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
3. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?





Thank you for applying for the EducationUSA program. We look forward to reviewing your application!

EducationUSA Program 2016 Recommendation Form

_____ is a former student applying to be a participant in the EducationUSA Program. The EducationUSA Program mission is to assist highly-talented and economically-disadvantaged students to negotiate the admissions process to universities in the United States with the aim of producing highly skilled and widely-educated leaders to build tomorrow's Kenya. We are requesting you to take a moment to comment on his/her suitability for the program by completing this form and returning it the student to attach to his/her application.

Applications are due to the EducationUSA Advising Centers in Nakuru & Nairobi by Friday, April 8, 2016.

To be completed by the recommender

Name _____

Title/Role _____

School/Organization _____

Contact Email and/or Telephone Number _____

For how long and in what context have you known this student? _____

What are the first words that come to mind when you think of this student? _____

Please evaluate this student against the following EducationUSA selection criteria:

Academic Excellence _____

Demonstrated Leadership Potential _____

Ethos of Giving Back _____

Economic Disadvantage _____

Use this space or a separate paper for your additional comments about the accomplishments and potential of this student and their suitability for the EducationUSA program.

Please stamp this recommendation with the school/organization official stamp and sign it. Thank you